



December 23, 2004

Federal grand jury returns indictments against five defendants

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced today that a federal grand jury in Providence yesterday returned indictments charging the following individuals:

- **Freddie Rodriguez**, AKA "Shorty," 29, of 78 Vernon Street, Providence – charged with possessing with intent to distribute approximately 100 grams of cocaine on September 7. The statutory maximum penalty is 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine.
- **Juan Jusino**, AKA "Dondee," 29, of 47 Weseleyan Avenue, Providence – charged with possessing with intent to distribute approximately 50 grams of cocaine base, also known as crack cocaine, on December 16. The minimum sentence is ten years in federal prison and the maximum is life imprisonment plus a \$4,000,000 fine.

The charges against Rodriguez and Jusino result from a multi-agency task force investigation, known as Operation Royal Flush, into alleged cocaine and crack cocaine trafficking by suspected members and associates of the Almighty Latin Kings Nation. More than 20 defendants have been arrested on federal or state charges as a result of that investigation.

Nine federal, state, and municipal law enforcement agencies participated in Operation Royal Flush: **Providence Police**, the **Drug Enforcement Administration**, the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**, the **Federal Bureau of Investigation**, the **Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement**, the **U.S. Marshals Service**, Rhode

Island State Police, East Providence Police, and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations. In addition, **Newport and Pawtucket Police** have detectives assigned to the DEA Task Force that worked on the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary E. Rogers is prosecuting the federal cases resulting from Operation Royal Flush.

The grand jury also returned indictments against three other defendants:

- **Jacinto Garcia**, 35, of 733 SW 110th Lane, Pembroke Pines, Florida – charged with possessing with intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin. Providence Police arrested Garcia on December 18 when officers allegedly seized six kilograms of heroin from a vehicle Garcia was driving. The minimum sentence is ten years in prison and the maximum is life plus a \$4,000,000 fine. **Providence Police** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Adi Goldstein is prosecuting it.
- **Ricardo Matos**, 31, of 7173 Messenger Street, Apt 615, Plainville, Massachusetts – charged with possessing with intent to distribute cocaine on November 19. The indictment alleges that the amount of cocaine was approximately 124 grams and that an additional 1.8 kilograms of cocaine can also be linked to Matos. The statutory maximum penalty is 20 years in prison and a \$1,000,000 fine. The Rhode Island **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA)**, which is led by the **FBI** and the **Rhode Island State Police**, investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch is prosecuting it.
- **Joe Martinez**, 34, address unknown – charged with bank fraud for an alleged scheme in which he withdrew funds against a stolen \$40,000 check that had been deposited into his accounts at Domestic Bank. The statutory maximum penalty is 30 years imprisonment

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and a \$1,000,000 fine. The **United States Secret Service** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Terrence P. Donnelly is prosecuting it.

An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in court. Upon conviction, federal sentencing is determined on the basis of guidelines that rely on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

All five defendants are detained, either at the Wyatt Federal Detention Center, Central Falls, or at the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institutions, Cranston. They will be brought into U.S. District Court for arraignment.

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